

March 4, 2011

Our names are Joe and Jeanine Chiappetta. We are the parents of a wonderful 2.5 year old son Dante who has been diagnosed with Cortical Visual Impairment. We are writing to express our opposition to HB6380 and SB1012, bills that would consolidate the Board of Education and Services for the Blind into the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services.

Our son, Dante, has been receiving services from BESB since October 2008. We have learned so many things from all the professionals from different divisions of BESB who work with our son. In the past two years, it is evident that the entire agency works together closely to provide the best possible services to our child.

This collaborative team model is also evidenced in the programs available to the BESB clients and their families through the BESB agency. This collaborative environment created by the current structure of all divisions being in one location will be diminished if this bill is passed.

This is why we oppose bills HB6380 and SB1012. It would be a disservice to each and every client of BESB. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Joe and Jeanine Chiappetta